



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Region 7 - Alaska

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News

04-07

For Immediate Release:
March 30, 2004

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2004 Spring Subsistence Migratory Bird Harvest Season - Opening April 2

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council (AMBCC) announced today that regulations to open the 2004 migratory bird subsistence harvest season will be published in time for the anticipated April 2, 2004 start date. Public regulations booklets will soon be bulk mailed to all post office box holders within the eligible harvest areas. These regulations booklets outline details of the harvest including regional dates when harvest can occur, a list of species that are open for subsistence, a list of protected species and a description of the legal means and methods of take. In addition to these regulation booklets, small regional posters on the harvest will be mailed to area post offices for posting.

The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council, which includes representatives from the Alaska Native community, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acting as equal partners, was formed in 2000 with the specific purpose of developing "recommendations related to the spring/summer subsistence harvest of migratory birds." More information on the history and make-up of the Council, as well as hunter information, past harvest data, and public meeting announcements, can be found online at <http://alaska.fws.gov/ambcc/index.htm>.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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*For more information about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service our home page at
<http://www.fws.gov>*

